REMARKS

In the Office Action of December 11, 2007, all claims apparently were rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as not being patentably distinct from patented claimed inventions of U.S. Patent Nos. 6,253,345 and 6,721,916. Two terminal disclaimers are submitted herewith to overcome the double patenting rejections.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being devoid of a useful result. The present claims result in the computation of a distance of a received word from a codeword. One of skill in the art would recognize that the computation of a distance of a received word from a codeword is useful in, among other things, decoding coded data.

Claims 1 and 19 are amended herewith to refer to "data words," rather than simply "words." This is a non-substantive change made merely to enhance the clarity of the claims.
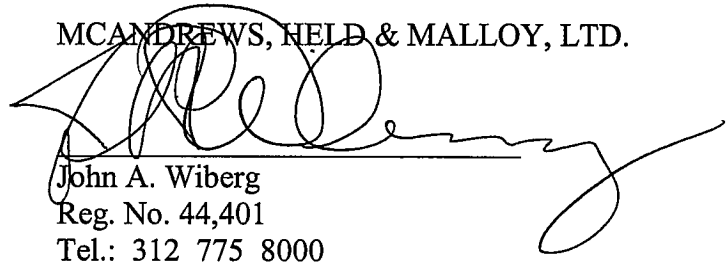
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1-37.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,

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